

**WORK PLAN**  
**TOTAL DISSOLVED GAS TMDL FOR COLUMBIA RIVER:**  
**SNAKE RIVER CONFLUENCE TO THE CANADIAN BORDER**

Draft - June 18, 2002

**Prepared by:**

**Washington Department of Ecology**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**in coordination with**  
**Colville Confederated Tribes**  
**Spokane Tribe**

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# SUMMARY

## WORK PLAN FOR TOTAL DISSOLVED GAS TMDL FOR COLUMBIA RIVER SCOPE: SNAKE RIVER CONFLUENCE TO THE CANADIAN BORDER

June 2002

### EXPECTED OUTCOME:

- ◆ One TMDL document containing TDG TMDLs for the Columbia River from Canadian border to confluence of Snake River.
- ◆ The document will be jointly prepared/authored by Ecology and EPA in cooperation with the Spokane and Colville Tribes.
- ◆ Ecology will issue the portions pertaining to State waters from Grand Coulee Dam downstream.
- ◆ EPA will issue the portions pertaining to Tribal waters and Lake Roosevelt. EPA simultaneously takes action on Ecology's TMDL and issues TMDL for Tribal waters and Lake Roosevelt.

**KEY DATES:** November 2002: Initial draft for informal public review  
March 2003: Formal Public Comment Period begins  
June 2003: TMDL issued

### KEY CONTACTS:

WA Dept of Ecology	EPA	Colville Tribe	Spokane Tribe
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## **SCHEDULE FOR KEY ACTIVITIES**

### June, 2002 - October, 2002

Draft TDG TMDL in preparation - technical analysis and TMDL development

### November, 2002

Draft TDG TMDL completed

Informal Public Review period begins

Public Outreach Meetings

### December, 2002

Informal Public Review period ends

### December, 2002 - March, 2002

Respond to Comments

Obtain Management/Tribal Government Approval

Revise Draft

### March, 2002

Formal Public Review period begins

### April, 2003

Public Hearings

### May, 2003

End Formal Public Review

### June, 2003

Final TDG TMDL completed

Ecology submits to EPA for CWA action for State waters

EPA issues for Tribal waters and Lake Roosevelt

# MAJOR TASKS

## 1. TMDL TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & DEVELOPMENT

**Technical Team:** Paul Pickett - Ecology  
Brian Crossley - Spokane Tribe  
Patti Stone - Colville Tribe  
Helen Rueda - EPA

Paul Pickett -Technical lead for overall TMDL  
Develop allocations for waters below Grand Coulee Dam  
Helen Rueda -Establish allocations in Lake Roosevelt

### **TMDL Document** - To be patterned after the Lower Columbia TDG TMDL

Paul Pickett - develop technical section of Draft  
Mike Herold - coordinate development of background sections and implementation plan  
Brian Crossley - review sections pertaining to Spokane Reservation  
Patti Stone - review sections pertaining to Colville Reservation  
Helen Rueda - draft sections pertaining to EPA authority/issuance for Tribal waters  
Technical team - write sections as agreed upon per expertise

### **Technical Approach**

- ◆ TMDL boundaries will be the Canadian border, ordinary high water in Lake Roosevelt's Spokane arm below Little Falls dam, and downstream at the confluence of the Snake River.
- ◆ TDG levels entering from Canada will be evaluated at historical levels, levels anticipated from gas abatement at Canadian dams, and levels necessary to comply with Washington standards. This information will not be used for regulatory purposes, but will be forwarded to the Transboundary Gas Group or other appropriate international coordinating body for planning purposes.
- ◆ TDG in the Spokane arm will be evaluated at historical levels and at allocation levels that will meet water quality standards. The allocation for the Spokane River will be applied to any future TDML or other water quality analysis for TDG in the Spokane River.
- ◆ Available models will be reviewed and a modeling approach selected and applied to TDG in Lake Roosevelt. The purpose to the model will be to route TDG through Lake Roosevelt from the Canadian and Spokane River boundaries and to determine TDG levels in the lake and at Grand Coulee Dam resulting of various upstream values, and derive a rationale for upstream TDG reduction in the US and Canada.
- ◆ Allocations will be set for Columbia River dams taking into account their individual contributions to gas loading and potential implementation approaches. The approach will be similar to the Lower Columbia TDG TMDL, but will be modified to account for unique site-specific circumstances.

### **Coordination**

- ◆ Technical Team to meet via conference call every month or more frequently as needed.
- ◆ Technical team will communicate via email and phone as needed to keep others abreast of current issues, activities, etc. and to seek resolution of issues via attached resolution process.
- ◆ Update provided at monthly Columbia River coordination meetings

#### **Document Review**

- ◆ Technical representatives from each Agency to provide verbal concurrence prior to release of draft document to public.
- ◆ Goal: concurrence by state, tribal and EPA representatives. If non-concurrence: representatives write-up issue, discuss at one meeting, if concurrence is not reached, elevate discussion to appropriate supervisors for issue resolution.
- ◆ Management review prior to issuance for public comment by Ecology, EPA, Spokane Tribe and Colville Tribe managers.

## **2. SUMMARY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

- ◆ Jointly developed by Ecology, Spokane Tribe, & Colville Tribe
- ◆ Attachment to TMDL document
- ◆ EPA provides support where requested and appropriate

## **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH - WORKSHOPS & COMMENT PERIODS**

**Outreach Team:** Ann Butler - Ecology  
Helen Rueda - EPA  
Brian Crossley - Spokane Tribe  
Patti Stone - Colville Tribe

- ◆ Status Report/update at public workshops for Columbia River TMDLs
- ◆ Public Outreach Meetings
- ◆ Key stakeholders (Columbia River PUDs and others) will participate in development of the implementation strategy
- ◆ Informal review of preliminary draft for stakeholders
- ◆ Individual meetings with key stakeholders as needed
- ◆ Formal Public Comment Period

- Prepare notification and mailings - Ann
- Hold public hearing(s)
  - Ann: Hearing Officer
  - EPA present
- ◆ Joint news release at issuance
  - Ann - Ecology
  - Helen - EPA

#### **4. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS - FINALIZE DOCUMENT - ISSUE**

**Coordinate response to comments** - Mike Herold and Helen Rueda

Comment response - technical team  
lead - Paul Pickett, Helen Rueda

- ◆ Management Concurrence on final TMDL
  - Colville Tribe
  - Department of Ecology
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Spokane Tribe
- ◆ Issue TMDL
  - Joint cover sheet signed by Ecology and EPA
  - Ecology signs and submits to EPA for CWA decision
  - EPA signs CWA decision on Ecology TMDL for state waters and issues TMDL for tribal waters

#### **5. ESA COORDINATION**

- ◆ EPA lead and coordination between EPA, NMFS and USFWS - Mary Lou Soscia
- ◆ Lower Columbia TDG TMDL consultation will be utilized as a template
- ◆ Mike Herold, Brian Crossley and Patti Stone will be notified of all meetings
- ◆ Updates will be provided at monthly Columbia River TMDL meetings

#### **6. TRIBAL CONSULTATION & COORDINATION**

- ◆ EPA lead - Mary Lou Soscia working with EPA TDG Team and Rick McAllister, EPA Regional Counsel
- ◆ Letters discussing the Agencies' and Tribes' roles and work process for completing the TDG TMDLs have been sent from EPA to the Tribal Chairmen
- ◆ All Columbia River tribal representatives invited to monthly Columbia River TMDL meetings, public workshops and hearings.

- ◆ All Columbia River Tribes notified of public comment period (informal via email, formal via public notice letter).
- ◆ Spokane and Colville Tribal reps are part of core TDG TMDL Team, notified of all team meetings, participate in technical team and outreach team as resources allow.
- ◆ Spokane and Colville Tribal reps have opportunity to contribute in drafting of TMDL, especially sections addressing tribal waters, and provide concurrence prior to release of draft TMDL for public review and final TMDL.
- ◆ Meetings or workshop with Tribes may occur prior to release of Draft and Final TDG TMDL.
- ◆ Issue resolution process is used where non-concurrence over specific issues joint author the implementation plan with Ecology
- ◆ Formal consultation meeting between John Iani, EPA Regional Administrator or Tom Eaton, Director, EPA WA Operations Office and the Spokane Tribe and/or Colville Tribe if requested by Tribe.

## **ISSUE RESOLUTION PROCESS**

Communications between the Parties while developing this TMDL generally will be at the staff level. If a dispute arises, the representatives of each agency will describe their points of conflict in writing. The written issues will be discussed at the staff level. If concurrence is not reached the matter will be elevated to appropriate supervisory levels at each agency. The staffs will present the matter to progressively higher levels of management until consensus is reached.